NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

pipeline news

August 2018

DCTD Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis

DCTD Staff Highlight: Peter Ujhazy, MD, PhD

Peter Ujhazy, MD, PhD, Deputy Associate Director, Translational Research Program, DCTD, NCI, NIH

Peter Ujhazy, MD, PhD, is originally from Czechoslovakia and credits his training in translational research for preparing him for his work with the Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs) at NCI. Peter provides a historical perspective on the SPOREs and some notable milestones in cancer research during his time at NCI.

What led you to NCI, the SPORE Program, and ultimately the Translational Research Program?

I received my medical degree at Comenius University, and after receiving my doctoral degree at the Cancer Research Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Czechoslovakia, I remained there to begin a career in tumor immunology. With access to both research and clinical facilities, my primary focus was true translational research and development of diagnostics in blood malignancies. While studying leukemic cells and testing antibodies against differentiation markers, we helped clinicians provide diagnoses in the adjacent cancer center. At that time, the clinicians only had cytology available, so our antibodies provided better diagnostic information for them by distinguishing between the types of leukemic cells in patients.

I came to the U.S., and in 1991 I worked as a research scientist at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, NY, then had a short stay at a biotech company, and finally went to Tufts University for a few years to work in a physiology lab. I was happy to return to cancer research in 2001 when I accepted a position in the Organ Systems Branch in NCI's Office of the Director, which managed the SPORE Program at that time. The SPORE Program moved to DCTD in 2008 as part of the newly created Translational Research Program (TRP).

What are some of the basic principles of the SPORE Program?

The whole program began because of the work of patient advocates, who are heroic people and passionate about their work. In 1991, patients demanded that Congress change cancer research funding, which focused largely on the basic sciences

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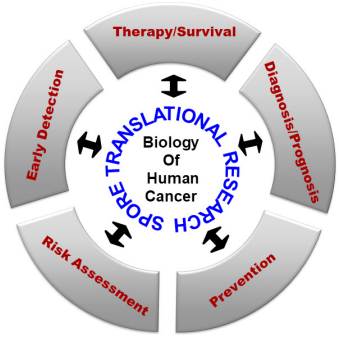
at that time. This need was addressed when Congress urged NCI to develop a translational program to move discoveries to the clinic faster. The first SPORE grants were awarded in 1992 for breast, prostate, lung, and gastrointestinal cancers. Patient advocates continue to play important roles in the SPORE program today by helping clinical investigators with study design, participating in grant reviews, navigating discussions at scientific meetings, and educating patients about the benefits of clinical trials.



SPOREs were developed as, and continue to be, specialized center grants that support multi-project, interdisciplinary, often multi-institutional, translational research involving basic and applied scientists. The goal is to develop new approaches to prevent, detect, and treat human cancers. While there have been some changes since these grants were first introduced 26 years ago, the program still emphasizes the basic principle of bringing clinicians and scientists together to understand the state-of-the-science and resolve clinical problems. That was the foundation from the very beginning, and that culture remains today. We've got basic scientists, pathologists, epidemiologists, and molecular epidemiologists, working with clinicians (medical oncologists, surgeons, and radiation oncologists). This interaction is very important. Each main project within a SPORE grant must have at least one specific aim that deals with a human endpoint – usually a clinical trial, a population-based study, or use of human tissue or specimens to test biomarkers. Animal models were considered translational research when the SPOREs began, and while we still consider their use an important part of the translation, we're moving more towards focusing on human studies.

What are some cancer research milestones that have resulted from SPORE grants within your portfolio in TRP?

I've worked with many SPORE grant investigators and cancer types over the last 17 years. I started out managing blood malignancy grants because that was my expertise, then I added lung cancer to my portfolio. I've worked with lung cancer the longest and am dedicated to this area, as it's the major cancer killer. The lung cancer research community is fantastic, and there are many devoted researchers in the field. A breakthrough in 2004 involving the work of SPORE investigators at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute changed the landscape of lung cancer treatment – this was the discovery of mutations in the epidermal growth factor receptor that are involved in the sensitivity and resistance to gefitinib and erlotinib. The study would not have been possible without the collaboration of medical oncologists, pathologists, epidemiologists, and geneticists working closely in this and other lung cancer SPOREs. Since then, SPORE investigators have significantly contributed to the dramatic expansion of therapies targeting other lung cancer mutations.

I also work with a strong collaborative group of small cell lung cancer (SCLC) researchers who are members of the NCI-funded SCLC-Consortium headed by Dr. Charles Rudin at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. This consortium wrote a selection of articles for the February 2018 edition of *Translational Lung Cancer Research*, entitled, "Small Cell Lung Cancer: New Models, Markers, and Beyond." SCLC has historically been a difficult research area due to the inherently small number of surviving patients and the paucity of specimens. However, after 30 years of stagnation, this field is now moving very fast. Today, we have genetically modified mouse models, patient-derived xenograft models, and circulating tumor cell models, and the field is more optimistic about current research and possible FDA approval of new treatments.

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Myeloma is another active research area within my grant portfolio. Important and very expeditious work involving myeloma SPORE investigators at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute led to an FDA approval of combination therapy with lenalidomide and dexamethasone therapy, which improves patient survival. TRP is also assisting with a trans-NCI Funding Opportunity Announcement, which is an administrative supplement designed to explore ethnic disparities in myeloma.

Recently, a lung cancer SPORE investigator, Dr. Robert Doebele at the University of Colorado, developed an important cell line that was used to screen agents targeting TRK fusion genes. Larotrectinib, a tropomyosin kinase receptor inhibitor, was selected during this screening process and is currently used to treat tumors expressing TRK fusion genes. This agent received orphan drug status last year and was granted Priority Review by the FDA this year.

In my sarcoma portfolio, the Memorial Sloan Kettering Sarcoma SPORE contributed to the FDA approval of olaratumab, an antibody against platelet-derived growth factor receptor alpha, with doxorubicin to treat soft tissue sarcomas. These are just a few examples of SPORE advances and highlights from TRP's research initiatives.

What is the impact of the SPORE program on the field of translational cancer research?

As is expected for grant programs, the SPOREs have been evaluated many times, and as a result, the program has evolved and improved over its 26-year lifespan. It is a challenge to summarize the impact of SPOREs on cancer research in a few sentences. We have recently assessed the productivity of the program by analyzing publications resulting from the SPOREs over time. We estimate that 1,200 papers per year are published on work resulting from SPORE funding. Though it is difficult to fully evaluate the breadth of the program's impact on science, we know that the SPOREs have accomplished a great deal. SPORE investigators have proven that well-designed teamwork and collaborations pay off. I'm proud of this, and I hope the cancer research community sees the impact that NCI-funded, collaborative, translational science is having on cancer research and patients.

Spotlight: An Anniversary Symposium Celebrates the Translational Research Program and the SPOREs

Toby Hecht, PhD, Associate Director, TRP, opens the anniversary symposium.

DCTD's Translational Research Program (TRP) celebrated its 10th anniversary in the division and 26 years of the Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs) with a symposium on May 30, 2018. **Toby Hecht, PhD**, Associate Director, TRP, opened the event by providing guests with a history of the SPORE Program. In 1989, NCI's Director, Sam Broder, MD, recognized a need for NCI-funded translational cancer research. Dr. Broder, Andrew Chiarodo, PhD (who led the newly formed Division of Cancer Biology and Diagnosis), and Brian Kimes, PhD (then Associate Director for Extramural Programs),

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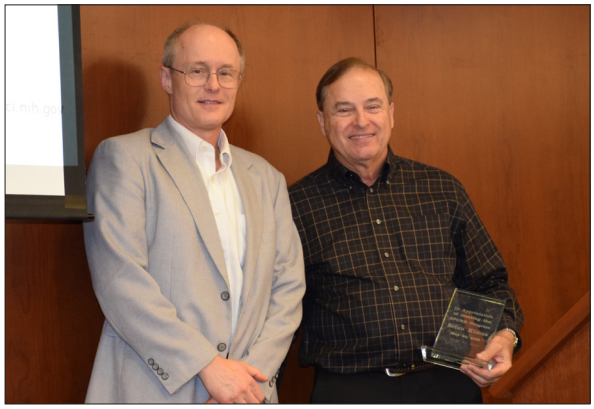
were the visionaries for the SPOREs. At the symposium, **Peter Ujhazy, MD, PhD**, TRP's current Deputy Associate Director, presented Dr. Kimes with an award in appreciation of his role in the development of the SPORE Program.



Peter Ujhazy, MD, PhD, Deputy Associate Director, TRP, presents Brian Kimes, PhD, former Associated Director for Extramural Programs, with an award of appreciation.

With input from patient advocates, in 1991, the U.S. Congress urged NCI to establish the SPOREs with $20 million to "stimulate investigator-initiated research ideas across a broad range of basic and clinical solid tumor research." The first SPORE grants were awarded in 1992, and in 2008, the SPORE Program moved to DCTD under the newly formed TRP.

Bill Nelson, MD, PhD, Johns Hopkins University, joined the celebration and talked about his decades of experience as a SPORE investigator. Dr. Nelson is the principal investigator of a prostate cancer SPORE that consists of five distinct research projects.

Bill Nelson, MD, PhD, Director of the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins University, talks about his experiences as a SPORE investigator.

Igor Kuzmin, PhD, Program Director, TRP, described a recent analysis of SPORE grant productivity measured by number of SPORE investigator publications and citations.

Igor Kuzmin, PhD, discusses SPORE productivity.

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While the SPOREs are now in their 27th year and some aspects of the program have changed, the basic principles have remained the same: SPOREs are specialized center grants to support multi-project, interdisciplinary, often multi-institutional, translational research involving both basic and applied scientists, that result in diverse new approaches to the prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of all human cancers. In addition, patient advocates remain an important part of the SPORE Program today by participating in grant peer review, clinical trial design, and scientific meetings. Jeanne Young is a patient advocate who attended TRP's anniversary symposium and is involved with the SPOREs by participating in grant review panels.

Tam Walton, MPA, MHA, Program Coordinator, TRP, stands with Jeanne Young, SPORE patient advocate.

Currently, TRP's staff manage 50 SPOREs in 22 states studying 18 organ systems, plus hyperactive RAS tumors and neuroendocrine tumors.

TRP Staff (front, l to r): Julia Arnold, PhD, Tam Walton, MPA, MHA, JoyAnn Rohan, PhD, Therese Trent *(back, l to r)*: Steve Nothwehr, PhD, Toby Hecht, PhD, Igor Kuzmin, PhD, Leah Hubbard, PhD, Andrew Hruszkewycz, MD, PhD, Sharna Tingle, MPH, Peter Ujhazy, MD, PhD

Spotlight: News from the NCI Developmental Therapeutics Clinic

Staff in the NCI Developmental Therapeutics Clinic (DTC) work to develop new treatments for patients with advanced cancer through innovative early-phase clinical trials. **Alice Chen, MD**, is the head of the Early Clinical Trials Development Program in the clinic. The additional DTC staff include clinicians/investigators, research nurses, nurse practitioners, referral coordinators, social workers, and pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic specimen laboratory staff. Below are some recent newsworthy events from the clinic.

- Several new staff joined the DTC in 2018.

Laura Corado, RN
Clinical Research Nurse

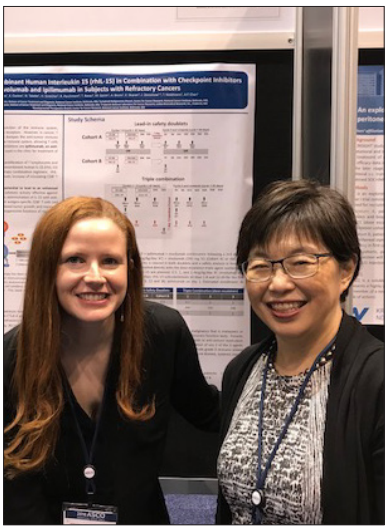
Arjun Mittra, MD
Clinical Fellow

Cecilia Monge Bonilla, MD
Clinical Fellow

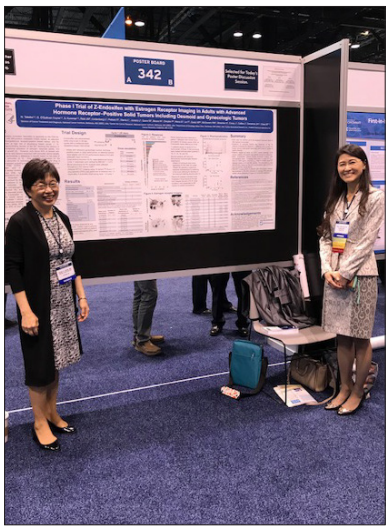
Kathleen Pogonowski, BSN, RN
Clinical Research Nurse

- In addition to the ongoing trials in the clinic, including many treating rare cancers, a few new trials have recently opened:
  - 5-aza-4'-Thio-2'Deoxycytidine (Aza-TdC) in people with advanced solid tumors
  - Copanlisib and nivolumab in patients with metastatic solid tumors or lymphoma
  - Recombinant interleukin-15 in combination with checkpoint inhibitors nivolumab and ipilimumab in subjects with refractory cancers

- DTC staff presented four posters on Monday, June 4 at the 2018 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL.



DTC staff Geraldine O'Sullivan Coyne, MD, PhD, and Alice Chen, MD, in front of their ASCO poster.



DTC staff Alice Chen, MD, and Naoko Takebe, MD, PhD, in front of their ASCO poster.

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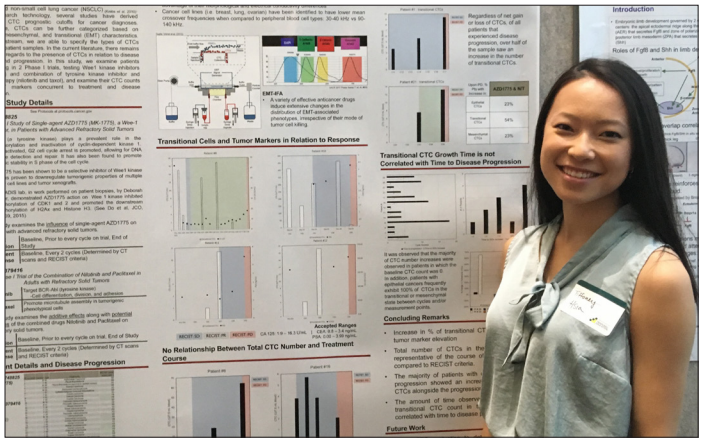
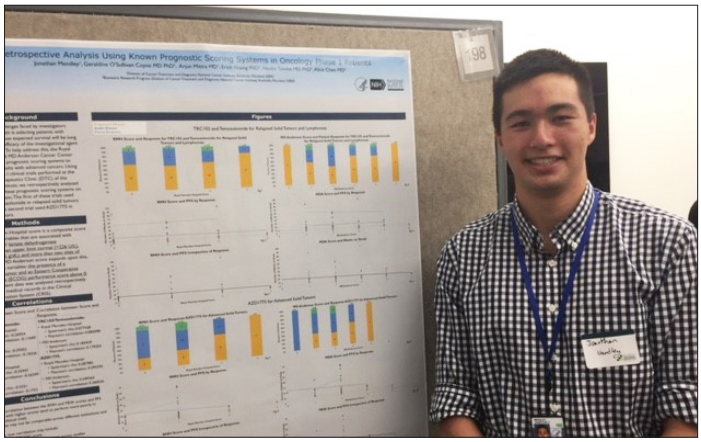
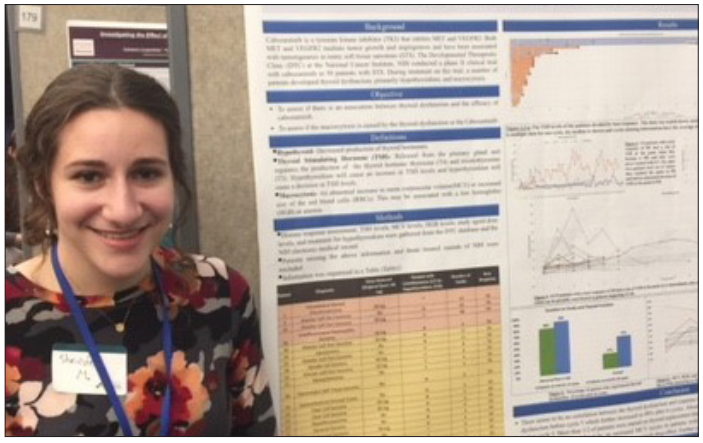
- The clinic welcomed three interns to assist with research projects this summer. Each presented their work at the NIH Summer Research Poster Day on August 9, 2018.



Tiffany Hsia, Carnegie Mellon University



Jonathan Mendley, University of Chicago



Sheindel Meister, Baltimore High School

News about DCTD Programs and Activities

Program Updates

Chemical Biology Consortium (CBC) of the NCI Experimental Therapeutics (NExT) Program Organizes Inaugural Drug Discovery Symposium

The CBC in the NExT Program brings together chemical biologists and molecular oncologists from government, industry, and academia to address unmet therapeutic needs in oncology. The CBC operates as a collaborative network of 7 Dedicated and 15 Specialized Centers across the U.S. that support the advancement of NExT discovery projects, provide scientific leadership, and provide technologies to projects. The CBC Fall Symposium, sponsored by the NCI, will convene on November 16, 2018 at the University of California, San Francisco's Mission Bay Campus in San Francisco, CA. Members of the CBC and the Bay Area scientific community will meet to discuss emerging concepts, novel technologies, and therapeutic strategies in drug discovery and development, with a particular emphasis on bridging the gaps between discoveries in academic settings and translation or advancement of those hypotheses into novel therapeutics.

Publications and Outreach

Peer-reviewed Publications

Korn EL, Freidlin B. Interim Futility Monitoring Assessing Immune Therapies with a Potentially Delayed Treatment Effect. *J Clin Oncol.* 2018 Aug 10;36(23):2444-2449.

Salgado R, Harris L, Skvortsova I, Denkert C, Loi S. In the Beginning, There Was Chaos: A Perspective on the Development of Immuno-Oncological Biomarkers. *Semin Cancer Biol.* 2018 Aug 4. Epub ahead of print.

Burton JH, Mazcko CN, LeBlanc AK, Covey JM, Ji JJ, Kinders RJ, Parchment RE, Khanna C, Paoloni M, Lana SE, Weishaar K, London CA, Kisseberth WC, Krick E, Vail DM, Childress MO, Bryan JN, Barber LG, Ehrhart EJ, Kent MS, Fan TM, Kow KY, Northrup N, Wilson-Robles H, Tomaszewski JE, Holleran JL, Muzzio M, Eiseman J, Beumer JH, Doroshow, JH, Pommier Y. NCI Comparative Oncology Program Testing of Non-Camptothecin Indenoisoquinoline Topoisomerase I Inhibitors in Naturally Occurring Canine Lymphoma. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2018 Jul 30. Epub ahead of print.

Siegel SE, Advani A, Seibel N, Muffly L, Stock W, Luger S, Freyer DR, Douer D, Johnson RH, DeAngelo DJ, Hayes-Lattin B, Lewis M, Jaboin JJ, Shah B, Coccia PF, Bleyer A. Treatment of Young Adults with Philadelphia-Negative Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and Lymphoblastic Lymphoma: Hyper-CVAD Versus Pediatric-Inspired Regimens. *Am J Hematol.* 2018 Jul 30. Epub ahead of print.

Sparano JA, Gray RJ, Makower DF, Pritchard KI, Albain KS, Hayes DF, Geyer CE Jr, Dees EC, Goetz MP, Olson JA Jr, Lively T, Badve SS, Saphner TJ, Wagner LI, Whelan TJ, Ellis MJ, Paik S, Wood WC, Ravdin PM, Keane MM, Gomez Moreno HL, Reddy PS, Goggins TF, Mayer IA, Brufsky AM, Toppmeyer DL, Kaklamani VG, Berenberg JL, Abrams J, Sledge GW Jr. Adjuvant Chemotherapy Guided by a 21-Gene Expression Assay in Breast Cancer. *N Engl J Med.* 2018 Jul 12;379(2):111-121.

Bekelman JE, Denicoff A, Buchsbaum J. Randomized Trials of Proton Therapy: Why They Are at Risk, Proposed Solutions, and Implications for Evaluating Advanced Technologies to Diagnose and Treat Cancer. *J Clin Oncol.* 2018 Aug 20;36(24):2461-2464.

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Girota M, Hansen A, Farooki A, Byun DJ, Min L, Creelan BC, Callahan MK, Atkins MB, Sharon E, Antonia SJ, West P, Gravell AE. The Current Understanding of the Endocrine Effects from Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors and Recommendations for Management. *JNCI Cancer Spectr.* 2018 Jul;2(3):pky021.

Navas T, Pfister TD, Colantonio S, Aziz A, Dieckman L, Saul RG, Kaczmarczyk J, Borgel S, Alcoser SY, Hollingshead MG, Lee YH, Bottaro DP, Hiltke T, Whiteley G, Takebe N, Kinders RJ, Parchment RE, Tomaszewski JE, Doroshow JH. Novel Antibody Reagents for Characterization of Drug- and Tumor Microenvironment-Induced Changes in Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition and Cancer Stem Cells. *PLoS One.* 2018 Jun 21;13(6)e0199361.

Ossandon MR, Agrawal L, Bernhard EJ, Conley BA, Dey SM, Divi RL, Guan P, Lively TG, McKee TC, Sorg BS, Tricoli JV. Circulating Tumor DNA Assays in Clinical Cancer Research. *J Natl Cancer Inst.* 2018 Jun 20. Epub ahead of print.

Ozkaynak MF, Gilman AL, London WB, Naranjo A, Diccianni MB, Tenney SC, Smith M, Messer KS, Seeger R, Reynolds CP, Smith LM, Shulkin BL, Parisi M, Maris JM, Park JR, Sondel PM, Yu AL. A Comprehensive Safety Trial of Chimeric Antibody 14.18 with GM-CSF, IL-2, and Isotretinoin in High-Risk Neuroblastoma Patients following Myeloablative Therapy: Children's Oncology Group Study ANBL0931. *Front Immunol.* 2018 Jun 18;9:1355.

Lockart NC, Weil CJ, Carithers LJ, Koester SE, Little AR, Volpi S, Moore HM, Berkman BE. Development of a Consensus Approach for Return of Pathology Incidental Findings in the Genotype-Tissue Expression (GTEx). *Project. J Med Ethics.* 2018 Jun 14. Epub ahead of print. Accompanying blog post.

Thornburg CC, Britt JR, Evans JR, Akee RK, Whitt JA, Trinh SK, Harris MJ, Thompson JR, Ewing TL, Shipley SM, Grothaus PG, Newman DJ, Schneider JP, Grkovic T, O'Keefe BR. NCI Program for Natural Product Discovery: A Publicly-Accessible Library of Natural Product Fractions for High-Throughput Screening. *ACS Chem Biol.* 2018 Jun 13. Epub ahead of print.

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Coleman, CN, Prasanna PGS, Bernhard EJ, Buchsbaum JC, Ahmed MM, Capala J, Obcemea C, Deye JA, Pistenmma DA, Vikram B, Bernier J, Dosanjh M. Accurate, Precision Radiation Medicine: A Meta-Strategy for Impacting Cancer Care, Global Health, and Nuclear Policy and Mitigating Iadiation injury from Necessary Medical Use, Space Exploration, and Potential Terrorism. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys.* 2018 Jun 1;101(2):250-253.

Jaffray DA, Das S, Jacobs PM, Jeraj R, Lambin P. How Advances in Imaging Will Affect Precision Radiation Oncology. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys.* 2018 Jun 1;101(2):292-298.

Yee LM, Lively TG, McShane LM. Biomarkers in Early-Phase Trials: Fundamental Issues. *Bioanalysis.* 2018 June 1;10(12):933-944.

Meehan R, Kummar S, Do K, O'Sullivan Coyne G, Juwara L, Zlott J, Rubinstein L, Doroshow JH, Chen AP. A Phase I Study of Ganetespib and Ziv-Aflibercept in Patients with Advanced Carcinomas and Sarcomas. *Oncologist.* 2018 May 31. Epub ahead of print.

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Blog Posts

*NCI Cancer Currents Blog and NCI Center for Biomedical Informatics & Information Technology Blog Series**

Liquid Biopsy Test May Help Predict Risk of Late Breast Cancer Relapse; **Lyndsay Harris, MD,** Cancer Diagnosis Program; August 15, 2018.

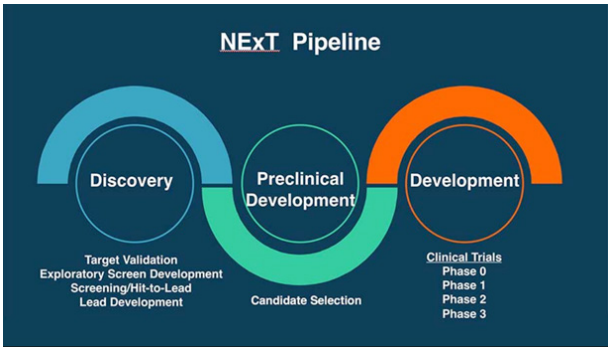
*Predictive Modeling for Pre-Clinical Drug Screening: Improving Models Derived from Observational Studies Using Machine Learning and Simulation; **James Doroshow, MD,** and **Yvonne Evrard, PhD,** FNLCR; August 8, 2018.

New Immunotherapy Option Approved for Cervical Cancer, Rare Lymphoma; **Elise Kohn, MD,** Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program; August 2, 2018.

Developing Biomarkers for Immunotherapy: A Conversation with Drs. Magdalena Thurin and Helen Chen; **Magdalena Thurin, PhD,** Cancer Diagnosis Program and **Helen Chen, MD,** Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program; July 27, 2018.

Can Age Affect Response to Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors?; **Elad Sharon, MD, MPH,** Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program; July 6, 2018.

NExT: Advancing Promising Cancer Therapies from the Lab to Clinical Trials; **James Doroshow, MD,** and **Barbara Mroczkowski, PhD,** Office of the Director; June 29, 2018.



Trial Produces Practice-Changing Findings for Some Children, Young Adults with Leukemia; **Malcolm Smith, MD, PhD,** Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program; June 14, 2018.

Dabrafenib-Trametinib Combination Approved for Melanoma, Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer; **Larissa Korde, MD,** Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program; May 25, 2018.

Some Children with Wilms Tumor Can Receive Less Therapy, Study Suggests; **Nita Seibel, MD,** Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program; May 23, 2018.

Interviews, Press, and Social Media

Cetuximab with Radiation Found to Be Inferior to Standard Treatment in HPV-Positive Oropharyngeal Cancer; NCI Press Release; August 14, 2018.

The Long-Term Effects of Cancer; **Nita Seibel, MD,** Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program; CancerToday; July 24, 2018.

Why Randomized Trials for Proton Therapy Are Difficult to Complete (And What We Can Do About It); **Jeff Buchsbaum, MD, PhD,** Radiation Research Program and **Andrea Denicoff, MS, RN,** Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program; Penn Medicine News; July 11, 2018.

NCI Resource Improves Research Community's Access to Clinical Trial Data, Specimens; **Grace Mishkin, MPH,** Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program; HemOncToday; June 29, 2018.

ODU Researchers Are Using Electric Pulses to Kill Cancer Cells. And They Say It's Working; **Anthony Welch, PhD,** Developmental Therapeutics Program; The Virginian Pilot; June 27, 2018.

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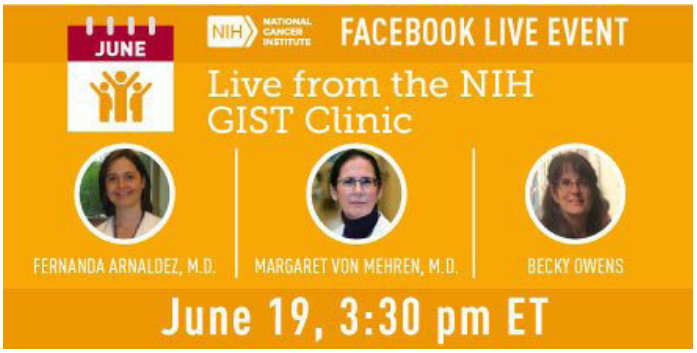
NCI Facebook Live Event: Live from the NIH GIST Clinic; **Fernanda Arnaldez, MD,** Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program, **Margaret von Mehren, MD,** Fox Chase Cancer Center, and **Becky Owens**, GIST Support International; June 19, 2018.



Getting Personal: Breast Cancer Treatment; **Larissa Korde, MD,** Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program; Axios; June 7, 2018.

NCI-MATCH Precision Medicine Clinical Trial Releases New Findings, Strengthens Path Forward for Targeted Cancer Therapies; NCI Press Release; June 4, 2018.

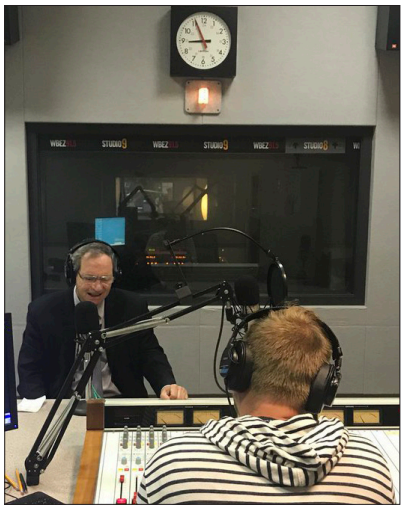
Finding Better and More Personalized Ways to Diagnose Cancer at NIH; **Janet Eary, MD**, Cancer Imaging Program; NIH Medline Plus; Spring 2018.

TAILORx Coverage from ASCO 2018

Conversation with the Cancer Letter. Abrams: Only about 20-30 Percent of the Group Might Benefit from Chemotherapy; **Jeff Abrams, MD,** Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program; The Cancer Letter; June 8, 2018.

Safely Skipping Chemotherapy; **Larissa Korde, MD,** Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program; Canadian TV News; June 4, 2018.

Rethinking Chemotherapy in Some Breast Cancer Cases; **Jeff Abrams, MD,** Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program; NPR's 1A; June 5, 2018.



Jeff Abrams, MD speaks about TAILORx results on the live broadcast of NPR's 1A.

Many Breast Cancer Patients Can Skip Chemo, Big Study Finds; **Larissa Korde, MD,** Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program; KNX10.70 News Radio; June 3, 2018.

Most Women with a Common Type of Early-Stage Breast Cancer Can Skip Chemo, a New Report Finds; **James Doroshow, MD**; The Washington Post; June 3, 2018.

TAILORx Trial Finds Most Women with Early Breast Cancer Do Not Benefit from Chemotherapy; NCI Press Release; June 3, 2018.

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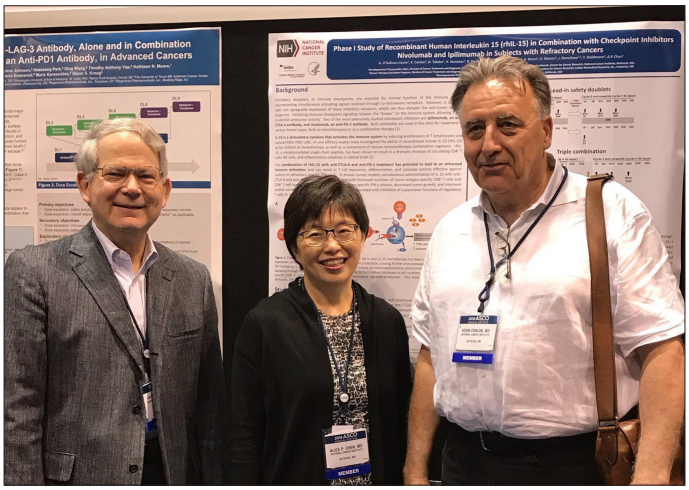
Conferences and Meetings

L to R: Charles Perou, PhD, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Breast Cancer SPORE co-PI; Eric Winer, MD, Dana-Farber/Harvard, Breast Cancer SPORE PI; JoyAnn Rohan, PhD, Program Director, TRP, NCI; Kent Osborne, MD, Baylor College of Medicine, Breast Cancer SPORE PI.

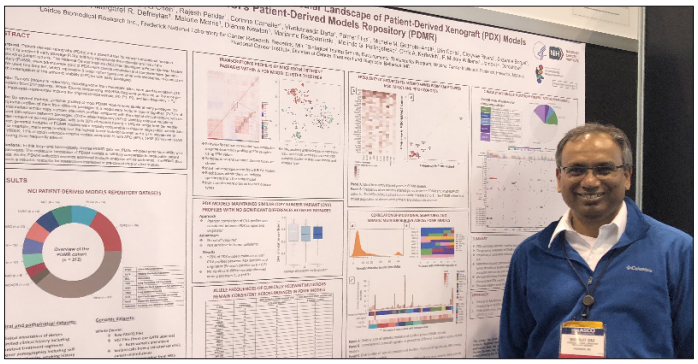
The Translational Research Program convened a Breast Cancer SPORE Workshop on July 9, 2018. Investigators from the five Breast Cancer SPOREs, NCI staff, and patient advocates participated in the meeting to identify preclinical, translational research challenges, highlight advances, define resources and technologies, and foster collaborations.

On June 7-8, 2018, NCI convened, "At the Crossroads of Social Media and Clinical Trials: A Workshop on the Future of Clinician, Patient, and Community Engagement." The workshop's goal was to explore social media strategies that may engage diverse stakeholders in cancer clinical trial communities. Nearly 40 speakers and the workshop's attendees discussed approaches to engage and educate the public and health care providers about cancer clinical trials using evidence-based social media strategies.

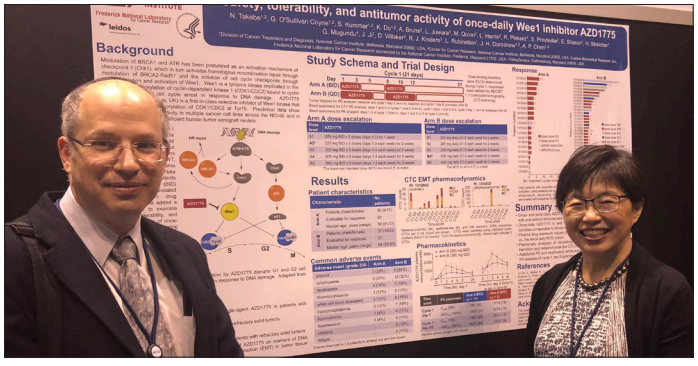
Several DCTD staff presented at ASCO 2018 (June 1-5, 2018; Chicago, IL), including oral, poster, and meet-the-expert presentations. See the full schedule of DCTD presentations and links to abstracts.



L to R: James Doroshow, MD, Alice Chen, MD, DTC, and Kevin Conlon, MD, Center for Cancer Research



Biswajit Das, PhD, Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research



Richard Piekarz, MD, PhD, Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program and Alice Chen, MD, DTC

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The following DCTD staff from the Biorepositories and Biospecimen Research Branch, Cancer Diagnosis Program, presented at the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) 2018 Annual Meeting (May 20-24, 2018; Dallas, TX):

- **Veena Gopalakrishnan, PhD**: "Strategies to Overcome Disparities in Biobanking Participation"
- **Ping Guan, PhD**: "Developing a Public Data Resource for the NCI's BPV program"
- **Lori Campbell, PhD**: "A Comparison of Biospecimen Handling Practices Across Biobanks using the National Cancer Institute's Biospecimen Research Database" and "ISBER Best Practices: Recommendations for Repositories 4th Edition Update"
- **Emi Casas-Silva, PhD**: "The Newly Expanded NCI-BBRB Patient Corner Website; A Community Resource for Biospecimen Information and Education"

Janet Eary, MD, Cancer Imaging Program, presented, "How Can We Use Radiomics?" at the Annual Becker Lecture, Society of Nuclear Medicine Germany (DGN) Annual Meeting: (April 19, 2018, Bremen, Germany).

Staff Awards and Recognition

Pushpa Tandon, PhD, Cancer Imaging Program, was admitted into the U.S. Embassy Science Fellows Program. Established in 2001, the program gives U.S. embassies around the globe the opportunity to host a U.S. government scientist who can provide expertise, advice, and assistance with science, technology, or health-related issues in other nations. Fellows in the program recommend projects that will make a positive impact on the host country, and the U.S. Fellowship work has resulted in policy development and collaboration with the host country governments, universities, and other organizations. Dr. Tandon began her two-month fellowship on July 2, 2018 at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India. She envisions this work experience as an opportunity to establish an Indo-U.S. program for Indian traditional medicine and cancer.

C. Norman Coleman, MD, Associate Director, Radiation Research Program, was named one of the two 2018 recipients of the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS) Ellen L. Stovall Award for Innovation in Patient-Centered Cancer Care. Named for longtime CEO of NCCS and three-time cancer survivor Ellen Stovall, who died in 2016, the award aims to honor her memory and advocacy by annually recognizing individuals, organizations, or other entities that are innovators in improving cancer care.

Staff Retirement

Jeff Abrams, MD, Associate Director, Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program, announced that he will retire in late 2018. Look for Dr. Abrams' staff highlight in the November 2018 newsletter.